

with the tragedy at Sandy Hook Elementary School. In tribute to Frank, and to the Newtown families, I will continue to fight for gun violence legislation. I am sure that Frank would agree that this battle will be a marathon, not a sprint, and we need to keep pushing forward.

Many have risen over the last few weeks to pay tribute to Frank. I am similarly humbled by his many years of service and the number of accomplishments that we can attribute to his leadership. As the last serving World War II veteran, his bravery in battle will never be forgotten. He was a relentless and unrelenting fighter for public health causes, such as controlling the harmful effects of public tobacco use, raising the drinking age to 21, and banning toxic household chemicals. He was determined to witness the effects of his legislative efforts, and many times he did live to see his tremendous work.

Frank was a champion of the rail community for many years, leading transportation safety issues. Throughout his tenure he improved passenger rail systems, protected Amtrak, and pushed for improvements to high-speed rail. Frank was certainly in my thoughts as I chaired a hearing of the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation yesterday on rail safety. I am grateful for his tenacity and proactivity on these issues.

We have lost Frank Lautenberg's stirring presence on the floor, but never in our hearts. For 28 years, he pushed for important changes as a force for good, refusing to give up the public fight for his steadfast convictions. Cynthia and I send our love to Bonnie and the Lautenberg family.

WORLD REFUGEE DAY 2013

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, I rise today to mark the 12th World Refugee Day, a day we honor the courage, strength, and determination of those who are forced to flee their homes under threat of persecution, conflict, and violence. Our nation's role as a safe haven for the persecuted is an integral part of our history. The United States was founded as a beacon of freedom and tolerance—freedom of speech and religion, and tolerance of all creeds and cultures. And throughout the years, Americans have fought to ensure that those rights are upheld for all of us.

Too often, we take these bedrocks of our society for granted. We forget that most of the freedoms we now enjoy are still being fought for in too many places around the world.

Today, there are over 43.7 million refugees and internally displaced people around the world. The protracted conflict in Syria has only exacerbated this problem.

To date, UNHCR estimates that 1.6 million Syrians have fled into neighboring Turkey, Jordan, Lebanon, Iraq and Egypt. With the vast majority of

refugees—1 million—fleeing within the first 5 months of this year.

This past February I visited the Kilis refugee camp in Turkey, which is currently sheltering over 15,000 Syrian refugees. I was able to witness first-hand the remarkable bravery of the Syrian refugee population. Many of these families relocated several times within Syria before ultimately making the heart wrenching decision to leave their homes and their country, to seek food, medical attention and safety outside of Syria.

But I also recognize the enormous economic strain this influx has caused on host countries. In Jordan, for example, the Syrian refugee crisis has increased the country's overall population by 10 percent, and the crisis has had profound social, economic, and political implications. We know that this is not easy, but we applaud Jordan and other refugee host nations for their actions and we have pledged humanitarian support for these communities.

The Syrian crisis is just one example of a troubling global problem. There are millions of refugees around the world—many of whom have been living in camps and settlements for decades. Whether from Iraq, Afghanistan, Mali or South Sudan, this diverse group, scattered across the globe, has one overarching commonality: they once lived in a place they called home, but by ill-fated circumstances were forced to flee, often with no hope of returning.

I know many of you agree with me when I say that addressing the refugee crisis is not a luxury, it is a necessity. As history has shown us, unstable and poverty stricken countries are very vulnerable to dictators and other extreme forms of government. Therefore it is imperative that our development and foreign assistance programs continue to have the resources necessary to ensure that the United States remains the nation that preserves and protects freedoms around the world, and the nation that supports our friends and allies when they do the same.

As United States citizens we enjoy so much that is rare in other parts of the world. Apart from reminding ourselves of all that we are thankful for, today should also spur us to action. As a global leader, the United States should lead the charge in aiding refugees around the world, and by our example inspire others to do the same.

OBSERVING WORLD REFUGEE DAY

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. President, I rise today in observance of World Refugee Day. Established by the United Nations on June 20, 2001, World Refugee Day honors the courage, strength, and perseverance of those forced to leave their homes under threat of persecution and conflict, as well as those escaping extreme poverty or environmental degradation. This annual commemoration recognizes the tremendous challenges faced by mil-

lions of displaced persons throughout the world and pays tribute to their invaluable contributions to the communities that have provided them shelter.

Ongoing violence and the harmful effects of climate change have forced millions of people across the globe to make the impossible decision between risking their lives at home and leaving behind everything in search of safety. Refugees are individuals and families whose lives have been uprooted, whose communities have been destroyed, and whose future remains unclear. While these displaced people struggle for the most basic services, they are also looking for an opportunity to lay down new roots and provide for themselves and their families.

For over 30 years, Coloradans have welcomed refugees into their communities, offering safety, security, and a place to call home. Our great State has provided them with an opportunity to use their diverse skills and expertise to make meaningful contributions to our way of life in the West. Today, we have over 48,000 refugees who have settled in Colorado from countries all across the globe. I would like to acknowledge this population for adding to our rich cultural heritage, for expanding our understanding of the world, and for strengthening our economy.

While we will never be able to fully understand the sacrifices made by these vulnerable individuals and families, it should be a top priority to remember their struggles and recognize their strength. As a U.S. Senator, I reaffirm the commitment of Colorado and our Nation to the refugees, and I pledge to continue to work to address the underlying causes of refugee flows.

On behalf of a grateful nation and State, I commend those who have risked their lives working individually, or with the multitude of dedicated non-governmental organizations, to provide life-saving assistance and shelter to those displaced around the world. Let today serve as a reminder of our international responsibility to help our neighbors and of the importance of our shared humanity.

ALPINE LAKES WILDERNESS

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, I rise today to speak about my bill, S. 112, the Alpine Lakes Wilderness Additions and Pratt and Middle Fork Snoqualmie Rivers Protection Act. I have introduced similar legislation in previous Congresses; in fact, this is the third time I have made a legislative push to protect these treasured spaces. It passed the Senate by unanimous consent on Wednesday, June 19, 2013, for the first time, and I wish to thank my colleague from Oregon for all his tremendous work to get a package of public lands bills through the Senate for the first time in over 4 years.

Passage of this bill is a tremendous step forward and is the result of over 5 years of work by me, my staff, and Congressman REICHERT, who has introduced companion legislation in the

House of Representatives several times, and Congresswoman DELBENE, who now represents the lands this bill would protect. We are fortunate to have bipartisan support for this effort, and we are fortunate as Washingtonians to have unique and beautiful natural landscapes that deserve protection from unrequited development and pressure.

This legislation would protect, in perpetuity, over 22,000 acres and provide the protections of the Wilderness Act to a richer diversity of ecosystems and lower elevation lands. These protections will ensure diverse recreational opportunities and protect one of the closest blocks of wild forests to an urban center in the country.

As I mentioned, Congressional action on public lands have been stymied in recent years. I was pleasantly surprised we were able to find a path forward, and today I wish to confirm my support for tribal treaty rights and for access to these spaces to be designated as wilderness for traditional uses by tribal members. I firmly believe the Federal government has a responsibility to uphold the treaties signed by our predecessors with Native American tribes—a fact that has been upheld by the Federal courts. As the author of this legislation I want to reaffirm that regarding lands defined within the bill located in the Mount Baker Snoqualmie National Forest, nothing in this act alters, modifies, diminishes, or extinguishes the treaty rights of an Indian tribe with respect to hunting, fishing, and gathering rights as protected by a treaty.

Again, I wish to thank Chairman WYDEN and ranking member Murkowski for working together to find a path forward to protect public spaces. And I wish to thank Senator CANTWELL for her steadfast support of this proposal. I look forward to working with my House colleagues to protect this important landscape.

I thank the Chair.

TRIBUTE TO COLONEL HAROLD R. VAN OPDORP

Mr. ROBERTS. Mr. President, I rise today to honor a true patriot, and fellow U.S. Marine, Col. Harold R. Van Opdorp. While some know him as “Odie” and others as Colonel V, we all know him as Marine. After more than 3 years of service leading the Marine Corps’ Office of Legislative Affairs in the U.S. Senate, Colonel Van Opdorp has assumed the responsibilities as commanding officer of the Marine Corps’ Officer Candidate School. I would like to recognize Colonel Van Opdorp’s distinguished service and dedication to fostering a relationship of mutual benefit between the U.S. Marine Corps and the U.S. Senate.

With more than 2 decades of dedicated service to his country, Colonel Van Opdorp has selflessly given to the cause of freedom across the globe, from Somalia to Iran, from Norway to the

South Pacific. His service leading young Marines as a platoon, company, and battalion commander, in garrison and in combat, is emblematic of the caliber of his character. His diverse service reflects the traditions of the Eagle, Globe, and Anchor that he wears and the nature of the Corps.

Over the course of the last 3 years, Colonel Van Opdorp has been instrumental to facilitating the oversight responsibilities of the Senate. Known for his in-depth knowledge of legislative issues and the operational requirements of the Marine Corps, he ensured that Members of the U.S. Senate with an interest in national security were armed with timely information on Operation Enduring Freedom, humanitarian assistance in Haiti, flood relief operations in Pakistan, Marine Security Guards at our diplomatic missions around the globe, and other forward-deployed Marine forces. Colonel Van Opdorp worked hard to ensure all Senators were fully briefed of the programs which make our Corps special, programs such as the Joint Strike Fighter, the Amphibious Combat Vehicle, and the MV-22 Osprey. In 2011, I had the pleasure of working closely with Colonel Van Opdorp during our efforts to recognize the significant contributions of the Montford Point Marines, our Nation’s first African American Marines, with the Congressional Gold Medal.

Colonel Van Opdorp’s absence will be felt in the Senate. I join many past and present Senators in my gratitude and appreciation for his outstanding leadership and unwavering support of the missions of the U.S. Marine Corps. I know my colleagues on the Senate Armed Services Committee wholeheartedly join me in this tribute. I wish Colonel Van Opdorp and his wife, Rebecca, fair winds and following seas as he continues to serve his Nation, charged with the great responsibility of molding our future Marine Officers. “Ooh-rah” and Semper Paratus, Marine.

RECOGNIZING PRINCE HALL GRAND LODGE AND THE LOUISIANA ORDER OF THE EASTERN STAR

Ms. LANDRIEU. Mr. President, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the M.W. Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Louisiana and the State of Louisiana Order of the Eastern Star, who have collectively provided 225 years of continuous service and devotion to the State of Louisiana.

For 150 years and 75 years respectively, the Prince Hall Grand Lodge, formed in 1863, and the Order of the Eastern Star, formed in 1938, have served the State of Louisiana through their tireless leadership and dedication. During this tenure, members of the grand lodge have served in community and elected leadership positions both in the State and throughout the Nation. During the Civil Rights movement, members provided invaluable

management, direction, and guidance to countless organizations that contributed to the effort. Throughout their illustrious years of service, the grand lodge has worked with local partners to invest in and improve communities, strengthen opportunities, and expand the impact of public service. The passing of each year brings a greater appreciation for the values of community, education, and civic activism that the grand lodge and order provide to the State of Louisiana.

The Prince Hall Grand Lodge and Order of the Eastern Star inspire noble principles, moral values, and profound convictions in the lives of each individual they touch. Through commitment they teach the principles of family; through charity and volunteerism they teach the values of community and philanthropy; and through honor, integrity, and respect, they teach the convictions of acceptance and compassion. Their teachings and work have provided outstanding support and service to the citizens of Louisiana and will continue to benefit generations to come.

The M.W. Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Louisiana and the State of Louisiana Order of the Eastern Star have been and continues to be an inspiration to all those who have been impacted by their tireless efforts. It is with my heartfelt and greatest sincerity that I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the service, heritage, and tradition of the Prince Hall Grand Lodge and the Louisiana Order of the Eastern Star.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

RECOGNIZING JHPIEGO’S 40TH ANNIVERSARY

• Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, today I wish to congratulate Jhpiego, a non-profit global health affiliate of Johns Hopkins University, on the occasion of its 40th anniversary and recognize the organization for its tireless service in preventing the needless deaths of women and children throughout the developing world.

Dr. Theodore M. King, the former chairman of the Johns Hopkins Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, founded Jhpiego in 1973. The original intention was to share the latest technology, skills, and knowledge of women’s health with health professionals from Latin America, Africa, and Asia by bringing them to Baltimore for training. But Jhpiego officials realized that they could have a greater impact by educating health care providers in the providers’ own countries, so Jhpiego changed its focus to sustainability, to developing the capacity of countries to create a well-prepared network of health care professionals and a strong health system that they can build upon to care for themselves. As a result, Jhpiego and its more than 1,500 employees have brought the resources